Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SSM-03

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R 211326Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7206

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PFOR, EG, LE

SUBJECT: NEGOTIATIONS ON LEBANON GRIND TO HALT

REF: CAIRO 12656

1. NEGOTIATIONS ON LEBANON SEEMINGLY ASSIGNED TO BACK BURNER IN EGYPT AS DEPPRIMIN/FONMIN FAHMY HAS PERFUNCTORY MEETINGS WITH LEBANESE STRAGGLERS EX-PRIMIN TAQI AL-DIN AL-SULH AND LEBANESE MUFTI SHAIKH HASAN KHALID. PRIMIN SALIM ALSO MET SEPARATELY WITH LEBANESE MUFTI AND FAHMY MET EVENING SEPT. 20 WITH OLD PLO STAND-BYS SA'I KAMAL AND FATAH REP RIBHI AWADH. NO INDICATION APPEARS IN PRESS SEPT. 21 RE CONTENT OF THESE RUMP TALKS, THOUGH AL-SULH MENTIONED AFTER MEETING WITH FAHMY THAT THERE POSSIBILITY OF SYRIAN/EGYPTIAN/KUWAITI/SAUDI MINI SUMMIT END OF SEPT. GUMHURIYYA MENTIONS SADAT WILL MEET WITH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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JUMBLATT, BUT NO DATE GIVEN.

- 2. PRESS ACCOUNTS SPECULATE THAT, IN WAKE OF BREAKDOWN OF SHTURA DISCUSSIONS, SYRIANS PREPARING FOR MILITARY SOLUTION AFTER INSTALLATION OF SARKIS. AHRAM ALSO DEVOTES CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION TO REPORTED CLASHES BETWEEN PHALANGIST FORCES AND FORCES LOYAL TO FRANJIYA AND CHAMOUN.
- 3. ONLY EDITORIAL COMMENT IS BY AHMAD ZAYN IN AKHBAR WHO ACCUSES ASAD OF GOING INTOLEBANON TO CREATE GREATER SYRIA AND TO SLAUGHTER THE PALESTINIANS, THEREBY ACHIEVING WHAT HE FAILED TO ACCOMPLISH AGAINST ISRAEL. EDITORIAL RIDICULES IDEA OF SYRIAN-LED FEDERATION AND CITES TEL ZA-TAR AS EXAMPLE SYRIAN REPRESSION.
- 4. COMMENT: PREVIOUS TONE OF PRESS OPTIMISM APPEARS TO BE EVAPORATING, ALTHOUGH GOE DOUBTLESS VIEWS REPORTED CLASHES BETWEEN NLF AND PHALANGIST FORCES AS HOPEFUL DEVELOPMENT IN EVENTUAL ISOLATION OF EGYPTIAN BETE NOIRE CHAMOUN. EXCEPT FOR STANDARD LITANY FROM AKHBAR, PRESS CONTINUES TO DEAL GENTLY WITH SYRIA, VIRTUALLY IGNORING, FOR EXAMPLE, FIRST MEETING OF DRUZE FAMILIES ON GOLAN WHICH A MONTH AGO WOULD HAVE ATTRACTED ACERBIC EDITORIAL COMMENT.

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